

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC/POL

SUBJ: PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DELEGATION TO US

REF: STATE 162829

1.IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT REFTEL, EMBOFFS MET WITH DR. GAMAL OTEIFY, DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, TO WORK OUT DELEGATION. A SOMEWHAT APOLOGETIC OTEIFY ADVISED THAT HE IS AT THE MOMENT ENCOUNTERING A PROBLEM IN DETERMINING PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DELEGATION TO JAPAN, TUNISIA AND PARIS, WHICH ARE ALREADY SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL IN AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. THESE DELEGATIONS WILL INVOLVE AT LEAST SOME OF THE PEOPLE HE WOULD LIKE TO SEND TO THE U.S. AND HE HAS THE PROBLEM OF EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTING AMONG PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBERS SUCH VISIT OPPORTUNITIES. THIS, TOGETHER WITH HIS OWN EXPECTED PARTICIPATION IN EGYPTIAN DELEGATION TO UPCOMING UNGA AND NEW PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR EARLY NOVEMBER, MAKES IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR GROUP TO VISIT U.S. DURING SEPTEMBER AS INITIALLY EXPECTED. OTEIFY BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT GROUP, WHEN IT GOES, SHOULD BE BLUE RIBBON AND REPRESENT BEST EGYPTIAN LEGISLATORS. HE SUGGESTED APRIL AS AN ALTERNATE DATE AND HAS AGREED TO SUPPLY FINAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WITH FULL BIO DATA IN NOVEMBER FOLLOWING PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS. HE CONCURS THAT THERE SHOULD BE MAXIMUM OF 10 PARTICIPANTS FOR A THREE-WEEK VISIT.

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2. OTEIFY, ALONG WITH LEILA TAKLA AND ZAKARIA GOMAA, ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO WER EXPECTED TO BE PART OF THE GROUP SENT TO THE U.S. HAVE BEEN NOMINATED AS DELEGATES TO UNGA BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17. SINCE DELEGATION HAS NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY ANNOUNCED BY GOE, IF POSSIBLE, OTEIFY WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITHCU/GAI REPRESENTATIVES DURING HIS STAY IN NEW YORK TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE OF PROGRAM FOR VISIT WHENEVER IT TAKES PLACE. EMBASSY CONCURS THAT SUCH MEETING MIGHT BE USEFUL AND COULD PROBABLY BE ARRANGED FOLLOWING EGYPTIAN DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK.

3. ALTHOUGH FOR REASONS INDICATED, OTEIFY NOW PREFERENCES TO DEFER THE EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION'S TRIP TO U.S. UNTIL APRIL, WE DO NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT HE WOULD RECONSIDER MATTER IF DEPT BELIEVES THERE MIGHT BE SOME SPECIAL VALUE IN A PRESENTABLE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DELEGATION APPEARING IN SEPTEMBER. SPECIFICALLY, ASSUM- INF FOREIGN AID BILL IS NOT YET PASSED BY THEN, WE WONDER IF SUCH A DELEGATION MEETING MEMBER OF OUR OWN CONGRESS MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN EXPLAINIG EGYPT'S NEED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. DEPENDING UPON DEPT'S VIEWS, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO RAISE SUBJECT AGAIN. IF AN APRIL DATE IF EQUALLY CONVENIENT, WE SHOULD SO NOTIFY OTEIFY AND ALSO TELL HIM WHETHER SEPTEMBER PLANNING MEETING WITH CU/GAI REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT BE ARRANGED PER HIS REQUEST FOLLOWING ARRIVAL OF DELEGATION IN NEW YORK NEXT MONTH.

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